As per the survey conducted by the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention during 1990-2000, the nutritional standard of children under-5 years in China has improved substantially and the Calorie and Protein intake of people of China generally meets the Recommended Dietary Allowance.

(c) and (d) The Government is already seized of the problem and is implementing a number of schemes to improve the nutritional status of children. Some of these are as under;

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

(ii) National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meal Schemes) Department of Elementary Education & Literacy);

(iii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

(iv) Nutrition Education and Training Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

(v) Iron and Folic Acid and Vitamin A Supplementation programmes (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(vi) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(vii) Targeted Public Distribution System (Department of Food & Public Distribution).

Schemes for child development

2562. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring a new scheme to implement the development of children in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is slow pace of implementation of existing schemes of child development;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to implement these schemes in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a Centrally-sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Governments/ UT Administrations. There has been significant progress in the implementation of ICDS Scheme during the last two years or so, in terms of increase in number of operational Projects/Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and coverage of beneficiaries as indicated below:

	No. of operational projects	No of operational AWCs	No. of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition	No. of pre-school education beneficiaries
31.3.2004	5267	649307	415.08 lakh	204.38 lakh
31.3.2005	5422	706872	484.42 lakh	218.41 lakh
31.3.2006	5653	745943	546.71 lakh	237.64 lakh

(e) It has been constant endeavor of the Government to make the Scheme more effective. The steps taken in this direction, in the recent past, include:

- Sanction of 466 ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh AWCs as per Government's commitment as contained in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP).
- Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition.

- Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States.
- Supplementary nutrition is no longer confined to the beneficiaries of BPL families only.
- Better convergence with the schemes of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Department of Elementary Education and Literacy etc.

Child Development Scheme

2563. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to introduce the child development scheme on the pattern of Scandinavian countries for the nourishment of a child for his/her birth till the age of six years;

(b) if so, by when and how far this scheme shall improve the mind and health of a child; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India is already administering a centrally sponsored scheme *viz.* the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, which aims at improving the nutritional status of children. Besides children in the age group of 0-6 years, the scheme also targets pregnant women and lactating mothers as the nutritional status of a child is inextricably linked with that of the mother. The scheme is being run from about 7.45 lakhs AWCs spread all across the country at present. Government has also sanctioned 1.88 lakh AWCs in the last financial year which are expected to be functional this year. Besides ICDS,